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To All Defense Department Contractors,

The computers, networks and information systems of the Department of Defense and its contractors are increasingly a target of opportunity for adversaries. Intrusions not only may decrease operational effectiveness of DOD systems, but they could also threaten the competitiveness of private industry if trade secrets are lost.

The Department's contracts already oblige contractors to protect information. However, to supplement this critical requirement, the Department has convened a Task Force to identify improvements in standards for the protection of DOD information and courses of action to safeguard sensitive government and industrial information. The Task Force will work with industry in the development and implementation of these actions. We invite DoD's contractors to participate in the process.

The goal is a cooperatively-developed approach that protects both national security and business interests, leverages industry information assurance best practices, and maintains a fair and equitable competitive environment.

In order to raise industry awareness regarding the threats, mitigation approaches and procedures for incident reporting and damage assessment, the Department of Defense will host a series of industry awareness sessions with defense industry leaders. Please contact Mitchell Komaroff, mitchell.komaroff@osd.mil, (703) 602-9994, for additional details regarding industry participation in these sessions.